

Kent Action Against Live Exports (KAALE)

"I never give them hell. I just tell the truth and they think it's hell."

President Harry S Truman

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PRESS RELEASE

Friday 28th September 2012

KAALE very much welcomes the news today that Associated British Ports (ABP) in Ipswich have agreed to close their port to live sheep exports because it would not have the necessary facilities required in an emergency.

Then situation has been that Animal Health (AHVLA) inspectors have been inspecting only around 30% of all export transporters carrying live animals from the UK into Europe, and we consider this is not anywhere near an acceptable percentage. Only when RSPCA inspectors become involved and are given access to sites such as Ramsgate and Ipswich, does every single truck then undergo a full animal and vehicle standard check; something which we consider is absolutely necessary as a minimum if live exports are to currently operate.

On Monday 5th July 2010, at Folkestone Magistrates Court in Kent, Johannes Onderwater, the current owner and operator of the only vessel (the 'Joline' – an ex Cold War battle tank carrier) currently taking livestock to Europe, pleaded guilty to no less than six offences under the Animal Health Act 1981 of causing the transport of sheep in contravention of the Welfare of Animals (Transport) (England) Order 2006 and EU Council Regulation (EC) 1/2005. Onderwaters company, Onderwater Agneaux BV; was fined a total of £10,370 for the causing of suffering to sheep.

KAALE consider that this operator is not fit to undertake live animal exports within the EU.

KAALE calls on the National Farmers Union (NFU) to, rather than support a trade in live animals going for export, slaughter and /or further fattening in Europe, to turn their attentions to establishing more facilities within the UK for same. If animals do have to be killed for meat production, then we consider that they should

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BAN LIVE ANIMAL EXPORTS

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Contact – Mark Johnson – EU Correspondent and Press / Media; or Valerie Cameron – Official KAALE Photographer.

be slaughtered as near to their point of UK origin as is possible, and undergo as little transport time to the slaughterhouse as is necessary.

In the past, the large live animal export trade from the UK has partly contributed to and been responsible for the closure of many local and well run UK slaughterhouses. If animals have to be killed for meat production, we now ask the NFU to start involving its members in the re-establishment of more UK slaughterhouses, which would operate to EU regulations, thus bringing more immediate employment, business and associated industries (clothing, tools, equipments etc) back into the UK rather than literally exporting the trades into the EU on the backs of their exported animals.

This would mean much shorter journey times for animals undergoing transport (and still within the UK, where controls and regulation enforcement can be better enforced), the establishment of new business in the UK, meaning more UK employment and increased involvement of UK businesses associated with the supply of essentials to allow a slaughterhouse to operate – clothing, equipment, tanning etc.

All in all, this would be a win-win situation for British business and a big win situation for UK animals, as their journey times would be greatly reduced if they were transported to more local slaughterhouses established around the UK.

The days of long journey live animal exports from the UK to Europe are now long gone; and the British public, who is the British meat consumer, along with British farming, should be supporting increased British business by the establishment of British slaughterhouse usage within Britain. An all round winner for Britain. Animals that put food on UK plates would be locally reared, transported much shorter distances to more local and regional slaughterhouses within the UK, and the resultant produce can then be sold as 'locally produced' meat.

There is today, 2012, no requirement for the long distance transport of live animals (sentient beings) into Europe, and the multitude of creature suffering which it brings with it. ENDS

Link (Guardian): <http://www.guardian.co.uk/world/2012/sep/28/live-animal-exports-suspended>

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BAN LIVE ANIMAL EXPORTS

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*Above – the ‘Joline’ sails from Ramsgate and, loaded sheep transporter (for export) at Ramsgate.
Photographs – Valerie Cameron.*

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